

UNIT 27

Greetings, farewells, and special expressions

A

Greetings

Neutral to formal:

A: Hi./Hello. How are you?
 B: Fine, thank you. / Fine, thanks.
 . . . How are you? / How about you?

Less formal:

A: Hi/Hey. How are things? /
 How's it going? / How're you doing?
 B: Pretty good. / OK. / All right. /
 I'm good. . . . How about you?

We sometimes use these greetings at different times of day:

Good morning. / Good afternoon. / Good evening. [We don't use **Good night** as a greeting.]

When meeting someone for the first time, we can say:

Nice to meet you. [The answer could be **Nice to meet you too.** / **Same here.**]

How do you do? / Pleased to meet you. (*formal*)



B

Farewells

Good-bye. (*neutral to formal*)

Take care. / Take it easy. / So long. / Bye. / See you. (*less formal*)

See you later. / See you soon. [if you plan to see someone again, soon]

Good/Nice to see you. [a greeting or a farewell to someone you already know]

Nice meeting you. [to say good-bye to someone you've just met for the first time]

Good night. [to say good-bye late at night or if one or both of you is going to bed]

Have a nice day/evening/weekend. [to say good-bye to a friend or colleague or to a customer in a store; the response could be: **You too.**]

C

Special expressions

Excuse/Pardon me. (a) To get someone's attention. (b) To get past someone who is in your way. (c) To say you are sorry, e.g., if you stand on someone's foot. [*or: I beg your pardon.*] (d) Say **Excuse me** (*not Pardon me*) before you leave the room.

Excuse/Pardon me? / I beg your pardon? To ask someone to repeat what was said.

To your health. / Cheers. A toast when people have a drink together. It could also be **To your new job. / To friendship. / To romance.** etc.

Good luck! To wish someone success, e.g., on exams / a job interview / a contest.

Congratulations. To someone who has achieved something or had good fortune, e.g., found a job, graduated, got a raise. Also **Good job!** or **Nice going!** (*informal*)

Bless you. To someone when they sneeze. They can reply: **Thank you. / Thanks.**

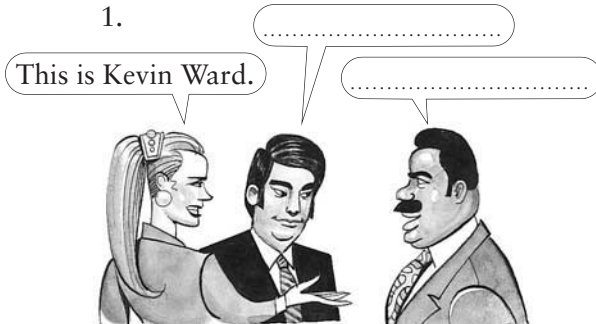
Happy birthday. / Happy New Year. To wish someone well on their birthday / on or soon after New Year's Day (often printed or written on greeting cards).


Exercises


27.1 What would you say or write to a friend in these situations?


1. Your friend turns 21 tomorrow. *Happy birthday! / Congratulations!*
2. It is January 1st or soon after.
3. Your friend has just passed an important exam.
4. Your friend is going to take a driving test next week.
5. You know you are going to see your friend again in a few hours.

27.2 Complete the conversations in a logical way.

1.  This is Kevin Ward.

2. 
 You too.

3.  Thank you.

4. 

27.3 What would you say in these situations? (Don't use "Excuse me" more than twice.)

1. You are in a meeting. Someone comes in to say you have an urgent telephone call. What do you say as you leave? *Excuse me. This won't take long.*
2. Someone says something to you, but you don't hear all of it.
3. You are on a crowded bus. It is your stop and you want to get off. What do you say to the other passengers as you move past them?
4. You are staying with friends. You leave the room in the evening to go to bed.
5. A friend tells you she has just won a contest.
6. Another friend is going for a job interview this afternoon.
7. You met a new business client for the first time an hour ago, and now you are both leaving.
8. While shopping, you meet an old friend (by chance), who you haven't seen in ages.

27.4 When do we use these expressions? Do you have similar ones in your language?

Say "cheese." Watch out. I have no idea. Good for you!